

MINUTES . Croton Sustainability Comm. . 10:30 AM Sunday July 10, 2016 - 221 Cleveland Drive

Attending:

Lindsay Audin

Carl Grimm

Greg Schmidt

Joel Gingold

Matt Rubenstein

Absent:

Brian Pugh

Niall Kelleher

Look for underlined commitments to be fulfilled before our next meeting.

Also note [bracketed] content providing information subsequent to the meeting.

Old/ongoing business:

Quick updates/holdovers/follow-ups/status of:

- info meeting on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) 6/22/16: Brian had previously told Lindsay that several Westchester town/village officials attended and had their questions answered by Glenn Weinberg of Sustainable Westchester.
- EnergizeNY event 6/23/16: Energize's Energy Coach was to answer questions about the program, But no one was available to report on the event.
- Compiled results of gas service survey and next steps . Lindsay reported on the results of the Google mapping done by Matt. On the map (shown on screen at the meeting), it was obvious that some homes were far from existing gas lines but . surprisingly . about 50 were on streets already served by gas lines. This would allow fast tracking of their gas service requests.

A prerequisite to informing those residents is a list of acceptable gas conversion contractors. Several options were considered, including the issuance of a RFI to all of them. Greg said we should run the issue by Janine. [Subsequently, Tom Bregman of Energize provided an already-vetted short list of 5 local contractors. At a 7/13/16 meeting, Janine OKed sending it, under Eric Morrissey's email address, to the ~50 residents, along with a brief process note on how to proceed with a conversion to gas for heating.] Before sending anything out, Lindsay will confer with Con Ed to ensure a smooth process.

- energy audit of Muni Bldg . To find other ways (aside from the boiler upgrade) to cut energy use/cost at the building, a limited audit was previously suggested. Since our last meeting, EN-Power Group (which is handling the boiler upgrade) offered to do such an audit for \$2500. It would focus on a few envelope options (door weatherstripping, roof insulation) and controls opportunities (occupancy sensors for lighting, Nest thermostats for A/C, and possibly a better boiler control).

Two options for paying for the audit were discussed: securing a \$2500 grant for passing an EV parking ordinance (no EV charging stations are needed to pass the ordinance), and re-allocating a possible savings found in the cost to convert the boiler to gas (i.e., that the County will allow the underground oil tank to be filled with sand instead of being removed, saving ~\$3,000). [In a 7/13/16 meeting with Janine, she was open to entertaining the EV ordinance idea if we did all the NYSEDA paperwork, but indicated that, once the money was received, the Board could elect to do whatever it

wanted with it. Regarding possible savings on the boiler work, she will review what is needed to take advantage of it, once all work and payments are complete. It was later learned that proceeding with Phase 2 of the microgrid project may require an energy audit of the Muni Bldg. If so, and the Village decides to provide part of the funding for Phase 2, the above discussion may become moot.]

- Green Community subjects/format (each member was to bring a few ideas) . A lively discussion ensued over the format, content, and goals of the proposed event. Consensus was achieved around a theme of ~~to~~ informing people of what actions they can take in their daily lives toward greening+. The list of topics previously submitted by Carl was reviewed. Joel offered additional ideas. The topics were prioritized based on a scoring and voting of the 5 present Committee members, with the following results (lower numbers mean greater preference, high numbers mean low preference). In order of preference score:

5 - plastic bag ban

5 - composting locally instead of trucking garden waste; gardening of properties instead of lawns

11 - landscaping railroad parking lot (suggested as more within CAC's purview)

12 - capturing rain water runoff at Metro North and other parking areas to return to ground

13 - improving the bus system, which does not serve commuters well.

To address the many services and options already offered for some of the above, Carl will speak to the County about a possible speaker/presentation. [While Tim Carey (County energy guy) was suggested in a subsequent emailed discussion, his position is instead limited to energy procurement for County facilities. County Legislator Catherine Parker (District 7) agreed to guide us to a County resource for that kind of presentation. Carl will follow up with her at 914.995.2802.]

The following topics were tabled, either because they are already underway or outside our purview:

- improve train station parking lot lighting efficiency and appearance . conversion to LED is already underway, appearance (e.g., tree plantings) would be considered during next upgrades to the lot.

- cut energy waste at the Village Garage and Wash. Street Firehouse . since relocation of the Garage is still under consideration, nothing will be done at the existing site, energy audits were already done at the firehouses, with some work already completed.

- upgrade purchasing specs for Village vehicles (e.g., using hybrids where feasible) . NY State has specs; Matt agreed to look into how they may be improved.

- add electric vehicle charging stations: Greg indicated that the NYPA installation grant covered only the chargers, but the Village would have to spend ~\$10K to install electric service to each, so that option was dropped. An idea for an EV event came out of the discussion (see below).

- develop local hydro-electric power . The NYC DEP owns the Croton Reservoir and Dam. In the past, it has not allowed such development. [Subsequently, Lindsay spoke with an associate who is deputy director of the Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI), which helps develop hydro power. She pointed out that, at its Cannonsville Reservoir (east of Binghamton, near the NY-PA border), the City is developing a 14 MW hydro plant. All power will be used to reduce the City's huge carbon footprint. Even if the Croton Dam got a power plant, or the Reservoir were to be covered by floating PV panels,

the same thing would occur, such that Croton would not receive that renewable power. Further consideration of that option would therefore serve no purpose.]

With regard to micro-hydro on local rivers (not part of the City's watershed properties), Matt agreed to look into such options. [Subsequently, Lindsay suggested he contact Ted Rose at Gravity Renewables, a private developer of small hydro systems.]

The following topics would be considered as part of events that focused on existing services, funding, etc. such that speakers (e.g., from the County, NYSERDA) could be called upon to cover them:

- reducing/eliminating leak-prone underground fuel tanks . County regs, NYSERDA incentives
 - the Rotary Club and Greg are doing the annual Classic Car Show on Sept. 25; expanding off a prior suggestion from Brian, we could augment that event by showing a sampling of EVs from local dealerships (e.g., Tesla, Chevy, Ford, Toyota, BMW, etc.) would each be asked to bring one of their EVs to the show with a salesperson. [Subsequently, Lindsay followed up with Greg, who supported the idea. Brian agreed to call the local dealers to enlist them in the effort].
 - purchase of 100% renewable power for Village electric accounts . to be addressed at a later time
 - using the village street sweeper only on demand (e.g., after a storm) . Greg explained that there are State rules regarding use of the sweeper that require it to keep drains clear, so such a limitation is not within the Village's purview.
 - extending sidewalks near schools to enable student walking . Greg explained that such extensions are already part of routine Village planning.
 - expand development of solar power beyond the firehouses, e.g., community solar . that effort is already underway via Sustainable Westchester.
 - disposal/recycling of electronics, hazardous materials, food waste . this is a County issue (it has a facility dedicated to it in Valhalla) and a County rep and related literature would be at the event to cover it. Greg pointed out how the Village has wrestled with handling such materials, concluding that no additional Village efforts are worth pursuing separate from those of the County. Matt indicated that Mt. Vernon had a program for electronic product waste and agreed to follow up on it, including a possible speaker.
- July 25 quarterly report to Board: no discussion; submissions have been received and Lindsay is drafting the report for delivery on that date.

New business:

1. review/approve revised generic flyer: Matt provided a draft file for the revised flyer. [Subsequently, Janine agreed to provide 200 copies at no charge to the Committee, saving us ~\$100. She asked for several wording changes to make it conform to Village publication standards, which were conveyed to Matt for handling.]

2, review local shopping bag bans (Carl to provide copies at our next meeting).

3. review/approve draft policies on adding/dropping Committee members and SusTeam postings on Village web page (agendas, minutes, email address), developed at prior meeting . Rather than formalizing a process, Greg [and, subsequently, Janine] suggested the following process. When a member has missed many meetings (which we have established as 2 consecutive, or 6 out of the last 12) without an excuse accepted by the Committee, the Committee will ask the Mayor to speak with that member about continuing or leaving the Committee.

Matt will also consult with Eric Morrissey to maintain the currency of Committee membership at committee-members@sustain-croton.org. Joel\$ and Greg\$ names need to be added to it.

4. recruiting new team members/participants [ongoing agenda item]; mailing list development . The proposed Green Community event will be used for that purpose. The event will be video recorded and made available via the Village\$ web site. Matt agreed to query Eric regarding how to track future traffic to the Committee\$ web page.

Next meeting date was set for Sunday August 7 10:30 AM at 221 Cleveland Drive, Croton.